

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-01 PM-03 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 230830Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3243

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3103

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, MARR

SUBJECT: BARNARD VISIT

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECY SNEIDER FROM AMBASSADOR

1. PRITCHETT HAS CALLED BACK APOLOGETICALLY TO EXPLAIN HE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY ABREAST OF PLANS ON PROCUREMENT SIDE OF ADOD. IN FACT, ADVANCE TEAM WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON PROCUREMENT MATTERS BUT ADVANCE GROUP HAS BEEN POSTPONED ALONG WITH POSTPONEMENT OF BARNARD'S TRIP.

2. BARNARD DID EXPECT TO CALL ON SHCLESINGER IN ORDER TO SIGN PRELIMINARY UMBRELLA AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH PURCHASE OF PATROL FRIGATES, MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBLY TANKS COULD BE NEGOTIATED. APPARENTLY A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED PRIOR TO F-111 NEGOTIATIONS. PRITCHETT REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSURANCE THAT BARNARD VISIT WHEN RESHCHEDULED WOULD BE PURELY PROCUREMENT AND NOT RELATED TO POLICY OR STRATEGIC QUESTIONS. BARNARD MIGHT WISH TO COME "SOONER RATHER THAN LATER" WHEN POLITICAL SITUATION HERE CLARIFIES.

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3. WE HAVE OF COURSE STRESSED TO PRITCHETT THAT

BARNARD WILL BE A MOST WELCOME VISITOR TO WASHINGTON.
PRITCHETT ALSO APPRECIATES THAT US OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY
TO RAISE WITH BARNARD THEIR CONCERN OVER PRIME MINISTER'S
APRIL 3 STATEMENT ON EXTENSION OF US INSTALLATIONS.
PRITCHETT SAID BARNARD WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
THIS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, PRITCHETT URGED US TO
READ PNEULTIMATE SENTENCE OF BARNARD'S PARLIAMENTARY
STATEMENT OF APRIL 9 REGARDING "CONTINUED OPERATION"
OF DEFENSE FACILITIES. THIS IS THE CONTROLLING
SENTENCE, HE SAID, AND WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY
UNFORTUNATE WORDING OF FINAL SENTENCE OR "ABROGATION".
PRITCHETT HAS CONSISTENTLY ENDEAVORED TO REASSURE US
ON THE FACILITIES, BUT HAS BEEN NO MORE ABLE THAN
ANYONE ELSE TO EXPLAIN WHY WHITLAM MADE HIS STATEMENT.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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